

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-12 as being unpatentable over Kroll et al US Patent No. 4,594,081. The Kroll Patent describes a gas scrubber having an inlet of 14 and an outlet of 16. The operation of the gas scrubber is described in column four, beginning at line 53. After entering the inlet, the flue gases pass into the annular space 7 where they lose much of their heat content to a heat exchanger 29. Part of the gaseous impurities in the flue gases condense onto the outer surfaces of the heat exchanger 29 from which the condensate drips into the bath 4. The heat exchanger is said to perform a pre-scrubbing function on the flue gases. Subsequently, the flue gases pass into the processing area where the rotating discs 19 with their propeller-like blades generate a downwards-directed flow as they rotate. The discs 19 are constantly coated by the liquid exiting from the openings 21 which forms an annular spray zone. The Kroll Patent states that, for all practical purposes, all the injurious solids contained in the flue gases are picked up by the liquid in the spray zone and fall into the bath 4. A droplet separator 30 can be arranged between the annular space 7 and the annular chamber 15. Additional air is added through the self-cooling electric motor 25. The current of cooling air is generated by the fan of the electric motor and is divided part into the processing area, and part into the annular chamber 15, as shown in Figure 1 and as described in column four, beginning at line 41. The addition of outside air, of course, increases the amount of gas within the system. The additional air will absorb some of the additional moisture in the flue gases as well as part of any contamination remaining in the flue gases. The scrubber can only remove the free water.

With the present invention, the water is added at a first location that is upstream of a second location where a condensor is located. In a further embodiment, a scrubber is located between the first location and the second location, and the method provides that substantially all of the water added to the gas stream at the first location is removed at the second location, and further that all of the water added prior to the condensor is removed at the second location, as is stated in the specification at the bottom of page four, beginning at line 15 and continuing on to the top of page five.

Further, the scrubber described in the present invention has a rotor that removes some of the moisture from the gas stream and forced by centrifugal force against the inner wall of the housing where the moisture falls by gravity.

There is no condensor described in Kroll that is located downstream of the scrubber.

It is respectfully submitted that it is not obvious from Kroll to create the method of the present invention where moisture is added at one stage of the process, and then all of that moisture is preferably removed at a subsequent stage of the process using a condensor, which has the ability to remove more moisture than the amount of moisture that was added at the humidification stage.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the Claims, as amended, are distinguishable over the Prior Art relied upon by the Examiner, and that the objections made by the Examiner on the basis of obviousness, should be withdrawn.

Yours, very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Daryl W. Schnurr', written over a horizontal line.

Daryl W. Schnurr
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